

**MINUTES OF THE
CHILD WELFARE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT PANEL**
Monday, August 22, 2005 – 1:00 p.m. – Room W020 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Dan R. Eastman, Senate Chair
Rep. Steven R. Mascaró, House Chair
Sen. Gene Davis
Rep. David Litvak
Rep. Paul Ray

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Mr. Thomas R. Vaughn, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Sen. Eastman called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m.

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Guardian ad Litem Audit—Follow-up

Representative LaVar Christensen responded to the audit of the GAL (Office of the Guardian ad Litem). He indicated that he will work with the GAL and DCFS (the Department of Child and Family Services) on where the GAL should be located organizationally within state government.

Ms. Kristen Brewer, Director, Office of the Guardian ad Litem, introduced Ms. Debra Moore, chair of the new GAL oversight committee created by the Judicial Council.

Ms. Moore explained the role of the oversight committee in helping the GAL to address the audit recommendations and responded to questions from the Panel. Ms. Moore indicated that she is an employee of the Office of the Attorney General.

Ms. Brewer and Ms. Moore responded to various concerns and observations expressed by Panel members.

Ms. Lisa-Michele Church, Director, Department of Human Services, addressed issues that would arise if the GAL were housed under the Department of Human Services.

Mr. Myron March, Deputy Court Administrator, discussed the membership of the Judicial Council's GAL oversight committee and Ms. Moore's qualifications to chair the committee.

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved that the Panel send a letter to the Executive Appropriations Committee to bring to their attention the budget of the Office of the Guardian ad Litem; and to request that the Executive Offices and Criminal Justice Appropriations Subcommittee allow the GAL, rather than the Judicial Council, to make presentations on the needs of the office at the subcommittee's November 2005

meeting and as part of the regular budget process. Sen. Davis also moved that the Panel chairs meet with staff from the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst concerning the GAL budget and report their findings at the Executive Appropriations Committee meeting in September. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Other Business

The next meeting was scheduled for September 12, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

4. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Ray moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Eastman adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.